

"SPLITTING RAILS."

The Anniversary of President Lincoln's Birthday.

THE MEMORY OF THE MARTYR

Is Patriotically Observed by the Marquette Club.

GOVERNOR-ELECT ATKINSON.

West Virginia, is a Guest of Honor. His Speech Impresses the Listeners--The Future of the Republican Party Outlined--It Has Not Yet Served Its Mission, But Will Live Until Its Grand Principles Are Carried Out.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12--The Marquette Club to-night celebrated the anniversary of the birth of Abraham Lincoln by a banquet at the Auditorium Hotel. About six hundred were present at the banquet, the majority of them being members of the club. The great banquet hall of the hotel was decorated in a lavish manner with garlands and cut flowers and the national colors. The banquet proper began early in the evening and it was three hours later before the intellectual portion of the programme was reached.

Mayor Swift made a neat address of welcome in behalf of Chicago and Governor Hastings, who was the guest of honor, spoke in the same strain for the state of Illinois.

His speech was a long list of governors of states, who spoke on the following subjects:

"The duties of citizenship," Governor Hastings, of Pennsylvania; "The grand old party," Governor Lippitt, of Rhode Island; "Iowa," they say she was "dead," Governor Drake, of Iowa; "The New Old Dominion," Governor Atkinson, of West Virginia. Mr. Atkinson spoke as follows:

"The New Old Dominion."

Mr. Toastmaster and Gentlemen--In the "New Dominion" old things have passed away and all things have become new. We dig coal in that prosperous commonwealth; we don't dig silver. Consequently when we voted last fall, we decided it wouldn't pay us to close our coal mines for the purpose of aiding Mr. Bryan and the silver kings to open up their silver mines in the sage brush of the northwest. The "Mountain State" therefore, in the campaign of 1896, hung her gate on the other post, and she hung it there to stay. The "Old Dominion" herself would have done the same thing, if a fair and impartial expression of her voters had been recorded. Both of these states are sick and tired of "solid south"isms. Both of them are endowed with natural advantages beyond perhaps those of any of the other states. West Virginia, my friends, the storehouse of coal and gas and oil and timber and of statehood. Republicanism also. Unfortunately, for more than a quarter of a century, our state government had tied up to the south with which section we had no trade or community of interest, thus preventing us from forming alliances for progressive development with the states north and west of us that possessed wealth and enterprise which otherwise would have been ours at our bidding. But, thank God, the Gordian knot has been cut, the shorelines have been parted, and we are now launched out upon the great sea of Republican progress. The sun doesn't shine upon a nobler and braver people than the rugged mountaineers of this state. They have been shamefully hampered in the past by faithless leaders, who appealed only to their prejudices and their passions. The masses, therefore, must not be blamed for that. At last the scales have fallen from their eyes. They have turned over a new leaf in the diary of time. They have wiped out forever the north-south line which divided the north from the south. Go there with me to-night, and they cannot tell you where the north ends or the south begins, nor can you discover it yourself. From this time forth we are with you, heart and soul, in any and every movement which stands for good government, peace, and a healthy and vigorous development of a genuine American policy. I would have you bear in mind, my friends, that West Virginia stood loyally by President Lincoln through all the years of our fratricidal war, and it was during his administration that she was brought into the great sisterhood of states.

An intelligent man, it seems to me, who has carefully studied the facts and conditions of the campaign of 1896, must be convinced that the triumph of sound money is final, and can never be reversed in these states that gave pluralities to the Republican party. No one can say that there was anything hap-hazard or accidental in the verdict that they rendered at the polls. A renewed contest will increase, instead of diminish the majorities in all of those states. That issue was sprung only as a vote catcher--a sort of political habit--foot with which to hoodwink people. It spread at first like a prairie fire; but when reason, experience, common sense and the ordinary rules of business were applied to it, its deceptive hollowness was readily seen. It was hollow, even then, the heads of the men who sprung it as a national issue in politics. It raged for a time like a cyclone, but it passed away, and will not, in my judgment, return again to haunt us in your day or mine.

The tariff is the only real issue in the American republic. Whether we shall keep the fires blazing in our own furnaces, coke-ovens, factories and forges, instead of rekindling those in foreign countries was done by the existing tariff law. Is the great, vital question before the American people to-day. The employment of our own labor upon our own soil, for the purpose of working out our own material and keeping our money at home instead of sending it abroad to purchase foreign manufactured articles, and by this means of employment enrich and develop our own country and advance the interests of our own people, is a proposition as plain and reasonable as that any one--even a Democrat--ought to understand it. The voters saw it on the 3rd day of November last, when they rolled up almost a million majority for protection to American labor, American manufacturers and American farmers. It is true that the money question was paramount in the discussion, but the tariff, my friends, was the under-tow that swept McKimley to the white house. The "New Old Dominion" is for both protection and sound money, and she is safely moored in the Republican harbor for a generation to come.

Mission of Republican Party.

Free trade and free silver may be thrust upon us again as temporary campaign issues, but they will again go down. Doubtless Democratic leaders may have the temerity to again insist that the Republican party has accomplished its mission, but it cannot be established. It has accomplished many missions. It is true, but its real mission is yet unfulfilled. In its infancy as a party, it accomplished a mission by neutralizing the effects which followed the repeal of the

MISSOURI COMPROMISE.

by saving freedom to the territories of the great northwest, and bringing California into the sisterhood of states, unclouded by human slavery and adorned like a bride in the glitter of her golden promise. In its early manhood, it accomplished another mission during four years of fratricidal war, by declaring that in the future as in the past, we will have but one constitution, one flag, one destiny. Under God, it accomplished another mission, when Abraham Lincoln, who was the greatest, biggest, broadest, brainiest, bravest man of our times, and of all times, whose memory we celebrate to-night, broke the shackles from the limbs of 4,000,000 human bondsmen and made them free; and to-night, thank God, nowhere beneath the shadow of the American flag can there be found the footprint of a single slave. Standing as it has always done for the greatest principle which our political economy can possibly teach, namely: the protection of American industries and American labor, it also accomplished another great mission. And in the last campaign it accomplished still another great mission by standing as it did, in the dignity of full fledged manhood, like a stone-wall, for good government and sound money. Its real mission will not be accomplished until free trade and free silver and all other lousy and lousy notions of so-called modern Democracy are buried so deep that the pick-axe of the ages cannot dig them from their graves of oblivion. When the Republican party goes down, it will go to its grave exclaiming, as the great apostle to the Gentiles, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith."

The Republican party is a party of the living and not of the dead. To act, to assume responsibilities, to confront emergencies, to go at every problem to solve and settle it--this is the genius of the Republican party. It despised evasion. Evasion is its element of opposition. Its quickening spirit, it is the party for young men to live in and for old men to die in. The Republican party keeps its face to the future and grapples only with living issues, while the Democratic party, forever protesting, follows in its wake, and its drabbed, gloomy pathway is dimly lighted by the smouldering embers of the party of progress. Our party is the party to represent the other in the past. The Republican party has never failed to meet every issue squarely. It has never failed to fulfill all of its promises to the people. Why, my friends, for more than a quarter of a century, nearly every line of American history is but the life story of the Republican party.

Not one of the material pledges and promises of the Democratic party made to the people in 1892 has been fulfilled. They promised us bread and gave us a stone. They promised us fish and they gave us a serpent. They promised us good times, and gave us desolation and despair. They promised us a tariff for revenue only and gave us a tariff for efficiency only. They promised us to fill the national treasury with money, and filled it instead with a vacuum bigger and broader than the boundary of your magnificent city of Chicago; and they tell us in the east that it embraces a big slice of the rich cornfields of the great state of Illinois. There are only two animals on the earth that can live on nothing but air: the bat and the vampire. The Democratic party of the United States. A political party that had the nerve to insist on this great government of ours going into the business of the free and unlimited manufacture of fifty cent dollars, ought to be pickled in alcohol, and preserved as a curiosity for a freak for the people to look upon through the generations that are to come after us.

In conclusion, my friends, I remark again that the Republican victory last year was complete and enduring. With a platform of principles upon which every true American could stand, and with a candidate worthy of its great and historic history, there was welded together an unconquerable army, an overwhelming majority of the liberty-loving, law-abiding voters of the republic, who, in the future as in the past, will be found advocating the principles of the political party of Lincoln and Grant and Hayes and Garfield and Arthur and Harrison and Lincoln and McKimley--the great Republican party which has placed the United States in the front rank of the nations of the earth.

Governor-elect Atkinson was the recipient of an ovation when he arose, and during his remarks he was frequently interrupted with applause.

United States Senator William E. Mason closed the programme by a short address on "Illinois."

Ohio's Celebration.

CINCINNATI, Ohio, Feb. 12--The Commercial Tribune's special from Zanesville says:

It was 10:30 when the doors were opened for the banquet. Governor Bushnell presided. On his right sat Mark Hanna, next to whom was Senator John M. Thurston. To the governor's left were State President Charles F. Leach and National President John W. Aldrich. Then in order came Major Charles Dick, Booker T. Washington, William Allen White, Congressman S. A. Northway and other guests. The toasts were: President's address, Charles F. Leach; toast-master, Governor Asa S. Bushnell; Abraham Lincoln, Senator John M. Thurston; "The American Congress," Hon. James T. McHenry; to the chairman of the national committee to be drunk standing; What's the matter with Kansas? William Allen White; Solving the negro question in the black belt of the south, Booker T. Washington. The national verdict, D. W. Lawrence; the work of the last campaign, Charles F. Dick.

WHAT CONGRESS DID

Yesterday--The House Finally Passes the Postoffice Appropriation Bill.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12--The senate to-day passed a resolution offered by Mr. Hill, of New York, requesting Secretary Olney to use every effort toward bettering the condition of Sylvester Seovel, the newspaper correspondent, imprisoned in Cuba, and to insist on all treaty rights to which he is entitled. Mr. Morgan, (Dem., Ala.), offered a resolution for abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, and introduced a purpose to roll up the resolution to-morrow. Beyond this the proceedings of the brief open session, lasting less than an hour, were of a routine character.

The statue of Abraham Lincoln in the old hall of representatives was draped in the American flag and wreathed with flowers in honor of the eighty-eighth anniversary of his birth. The house did not suspend business. On the contrary it celebrated the anniversary by discussing the necessities of the postal service and passing the postoffice appropriation bill. The personal fight was made to strike the appropriation of \$100,000 for special telegraph lines from Boston to New Orleans, but it was defeated 45-107, although that portion of the appropriation providing special facilities from Boston to New York was stricken out after it had been shown that this part of the appropriation had not been expended for several years. The bill as passed, carries \$55,475,714.

Senate Confirmations.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12--The senate in executive session, to-day, confirmed the following nominations: Postmaster, Pennsylvania--William A. Newler, at New York; West Virginia--J. J. Conway, at Harper's Ferry.

VARIOUS VISITORS

Call on President-Elect McKinley Yesterday.

THE CHICAGO END OF TRAMPS

Desire an Expert for the Commissioner of Patents.

THE COLORED DELEGATION

Respectfully Ask for the Appointment of One of Their Race, the Registrar of the Treasury Preferred--Other Callers at the Canton Residence Have Only a Social Object.

CANTON, Ohio, Feb. 12--Major McKinley passed one of the busiest days of the week. He had scarcely finished breakfast before the library began filling. Messrs. Thomas A. Banning, Charles Offield, Philip C. Dyrenforth and Douglas Dyrenforth, representing the patent law association of Chicago, were among the first received. President Banning delivered a memorial, which was in printed form adopted at a meeting of the association a few days ago. The association recommends that the appointee for commissioner of patents be a man thoroughly acquainted with the patent laws, but did not name anyone for the position. Major McKinley listened to the reading, and at its conclusion thanked the committee, and through them, the association, for the timely suggestions, and assured them the subject would be given careful consideration.

General R. Root, of Connellsville, Ind., was among the earlier arrivals. Mr. Root is a prominent member of the legislature, a banker and extensive manufacturer. He claims the honor of having nominated Hon. C. W. Fairbanks, who was elected senator. He is also a close friend of ex-President Harrison. Mr. Root declares his visit is only a social call.

A Pennsylvania party consisting of State Chairman J. P. Elkins, M. C. Clark and an Altoona gentleman, who withheld his name, arrived from the east and drove directly to the McKinley residence. They refused to reveal the object of their visit.

Mr. H. B. Murphy, of Virginia, was a visitor, coming to talk over matters of local interest. A delegation of four colored men of Dayton, and S. M. Smothers, of Colfax, Iowa, came to confer with the President-elect concerning patronage of the colored race. There are three prominent men, Bishop Arnett, E. K. Bruce and Joseph R. Lynch, which have been mentioned for register of the treasury, and the visitors would like to see one of the three appointed.

Mr. Giles B. Jackson, a colored attorney of Richmond, Va., said he was here as the representative of the colored men, of the late Freedman's bank, which failed in 1873, to endeavor to interest the incoming administration in securing an appropriation to reimburse depositors, many of whom lost all they had in the crash. Mr. Jackson said he was advised to collect all the facts obtainable and present them to the proper authorities at Washington. General Henderson, of Illinois, and Major H. P. Lloyd, of Cincinnati, were callers to-day.

Henry Wedner, president of the German National bank, and Director M. M. Winstell, of the same institution, and a delegate to the Minneapolis convention of the late party, also called, in company with Mr. John C. Duerber. To the Associated Press representative, the gentlemen said that Kentucky would be pleased to have a representative in the cabinet, but if this cannot be, then Tennessee would be their second choice. If Clay Evans preferred, they felt via the C. C. & St. L. for their homes this morning.

A PLEASANT INCIDENT

In the Official Life of the Retiring Commissioner of Pensions.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12--A pleasant incident out of the usual routine took place in the pension bureau to-day, when a delegation from G. A. R. Posts No. 83 and 41, of Allegheny City, and Pittsburgh, Pa., formally presented resolutions of thanks to commissioner of Pensions Murphy, for his humane administration of the bureau. The presentation speech was made by Representative William A. Stone, of Pennsylvania, who paid a warm tribute to Commissioner Murphy, and declared that for the first time in the history of the bureau, all soldiers are treated with his administration. Commissioner Murphy, in responding, expressed his appreciation of the endorsement of men opposed to him politically and belonging to the soldiers' organization. He quoted the instructions given him by President Cleveland which he said never had been published as follows:

"Mr. Murphy, I think you know my idea of the pension bureau and the pension system. They are these: 'In claims coming up for the action of the bureau where you find the case of a worthy soldier who served his country faithfully in her hour of danger, you will be lenient with him and give him the benefit of a reasonable doubt. In settling the claims of the widows and the orphans, you will act in the same manner, but waste no sympathy on the unworthy.'"

Mr. Murphy said that whether his term of office as commissioner be three weeks, or three months, or three years, that would always be his policy.

Pensions to West Virginians.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12--Pension certificates have been issued to West Virginians as follows:

Original--Josiah M. Kidwell, Calhoun county; Lewis Williams, Fayette county.

Original widows--Mary Yates, Weston; Ida E. Wilson, Lewis county.

Town on Fire.

PITTSBURGH, Pa., Feb. 12, 2 a. m.--Intelligence has just reached this city that the little town of Mars, on the Pittsburgh & Western railroad is burning down. The place is about twenty miles west of here, but its particulars are at present unavailable because of the poor telegraph and telephone facilities. The nearest telegraph office in Downsville with but one wire, and it a railroad circuit which is being used exclusively for railroad business. The town of Mars has about eight hundred inhabitants and it is understood every house has been consumed.

The Cashier Got It Back.

SALTSPRING, Pa., Feb. 12--About noon to-day Cashier J. A. Klingensmith of the First National Bank, was held up by a colored man and forced to hand over \$100. The man entered the bank when no one but Mr. Klingensmith was present and asked for some change. When the

cashier looked up, the black man held a revolver to his head and ordered him to hand over the cash. Mr. Klingensmith handed out a package containing \$400, and as soon as the robber left the bank the cashier gave the alarm and a crowd was soon in pursuit. After a hot chase of a mile or two, the man was captured and the money recovered. The prisoner would give no name, but is supposed to belong to Pittsburgh.

THE TRUE MERIDIAN

In West Virginia Surveys an Important Matter--Legislative Affairs.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER. CHARLESTON, W. Va., Feb. 12--Engineer A. L. White, of Wheeling, president of the West Virginia society of civil engineers and architects, is here to urge in the name of the society that the state take steps to ascertain the true meridian. Each of the surveys in West Virginia are based on the magnetic meridian instead of the true meridian, and it is urged that so long as this is so each surveyor will remain a law unto himself, and inaccurate surveys, resulting in costly litigation are continued to the detriment of the state. The engineers are prepared to show that disputed boundary lines resulting from faulty surveys have retarded the development of the state.

The advocate of the reform school for girls and the home for incurables are working in harmony this time, and both state take steps with favors. If the money can be found both institutions will be established, and both will do a good work. The advocates of the Botham college appropriation are much encouraged and think the project has at least an equal chance to pass.

Both houses adjourned till Monday, and there was at once a flight homeward and Washington-ward. Speaker Hansen went to Washington. President of the Senate Whitaker mends slowly, but surely. He is still confined to his bed.

The senate is up with its calendar, but a long list of bills confronts the house. Many of these will fall for lack of time. Work progresses on the appropriation bill, but the uncertainty surrounding the criminal charges deficiency necessarily retards an important part of the work.

The senate has made a special order for next Monday the bill to reform the criminal charge system. From present indications the bill will pass the senate. It commends itself to the legislative mind because it offers the only solution of the appalling growth of this item of public expenditure.

The bill to allow the city of Wheeling to contract for the sale of water outside of the city has passed and the governor has signed it. Delegate Behrens, who put it through, has gone home to remain until Monday. C. B. H.

RUINED BY DISSIPATION.

Former Employee of Weston Asylum Now an Inmate of It.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.

WESTON, W. Va., Feb. 12--James Blackwell, the forlorn at the hospital, was arrested and placed in the lock-up a few days ago upon a charge of drunkenness.

He was very violent at the time of his arrest, but it was believed by his friends that he was suffering from delirium, and that he would be able to take a rational change. On the contrary no change was apparent, and to-day he was adjudged insane and committed to the hospital.

Blackwell was accustomed to periodic sprees, and had frequently absented himself from his duties by reason of dissipation, having at one time been in a boarding house in town for a period of eleven weeks. Being otherwise a very competent employee, and a favorite with the officials, his indiscretion had been shielded and he was not discharged.

BENNETT'S WRITING.

More Witnesses Called in the Weston Election Contest Case.

SPECIAL DISPATCH TO THE INTELLIGENCER.

WESTON, W. Va., Feb. 12--F. G. Orr, of the firm of Ruhl, Koberg & Co., and Assistant Bank Cashier Scott Vandervort were recalled by the contestee to-day and both testified that if the name of E. A. Bennett, as written on the ballots, was written by the man who appeared, were written in a disguised hand.

On re-direct examination they pointed out numerous similarities between the writing of Bennett on the records and that upon the ballots. These resemblances were not marked when comparing the ballots with the writing near the bottom of the book pages, for there seems to have been no hand or forearm rest while the writing was done.

TERRIBLE WRECK

On West Virginia Central--Most of the Victims Live in This State.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 12--A special to the Post from Cumberland, Md., says: North bound passenger train No. 2, on the West Virginia Central & Pittsburgh railroad, was wrecked shortly before noon to-day, at Barnum, W. Va., about thirty-five miles south of Cumberland, by a wheel on the rear truck of the last coach bursting. The train was moving at the rate of eighteen miles an hour, and the coach was thrown violently over an embankment. It cleared the track so suddenly that the latter was not the least torn. The injured are:

Daniel Lecklider, of Elkins, W. Va., conductor, bruised about the hips shoulder and back, and hurt internally.

W. D. Holmes, of Elkins, W. Va., brakeman, bruised and cut by glass.

D. A. Aycox, colored, cut on the throat and head by glass.

Blakely Parsons, a one-armed lawyer, of Bayard, W. Va., cut about face and head.

Sidney Murphy, of Schell, W. Va., shoulder bruised.

P. J. Rafferty, of Shaw, W. Va., cut and bruised.

W. Houseknecht, of Williamsport, Pa., cut on the head. He was compelled to remain at Barnum.

The name of the eighth person could not be ascertained. All the passengers were badly shaken up.

How Rockefeller Settles.

DULUTH MINN., Feb. 12--The case of Alfred Merritt vs. John D. Rockefeller, is reported to have been settled for \$500,000 in cash paid to Merritt. It is understood that all the members of the Rockefeller family who had claims against Merritt have joined in the settlement. The total claims would aggregate \$4,000,000 or \$5,000,000. In the Alfred Merritt case a verdict for \$300,000 was secured in June, 1895, but a new trial was ordered. A. A. Harris & Son instituted the case and fought it through, but A. L. Washburn, who was associated in the case, is supposed to have made the settlement. Leon and Alfred Merritt are now in Mexico, where they have investments, and it is said the entire family will move down there.

ANOTHER SCARE

Of War That Will Finally Involve All Europe.

ENERGETIC ACTION OF GREECE

In Regard to the Deplorable Condition of Crete.

AWAKES THE AUGUST PORTE

To a Realization of the True Situation of the State of Affairs--The Sultan Cries Aloud to the Powers to Prevent That Country From Taking Away From It One of Its Dependencies that It Cannot Take Care Of--Temper of the Cretans.

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ATHENS, Feb. 12--The war-like excitement increased here with the departure of troops for the frontier, and the equipping of additional war vessels for service in Cretan waters. Nobody seems to doubt that a clash at arms will occur between Greece and Turkey unless the powers intervene; but it is believed here that Greece will be given a free hand in Crete, and that if she succeeds in annexing that island her right to do so will not be questioned by the rest of Europe.

It is quite certain that King George has not acted without consulting with his friends in sending the torpedo flotilla into Cretan waters with instructions to prevent at all hazards the landing of Turkish troops in Crete.

The Porte is understood to have appealed to the powers to restrain Greece in this emergency, but nothing further is known of the policy Turkey is adopting, though it is reported that a large force of Turkish troops is assembling at Salonika for embarkation to Crete; that there is great activity in military circles on the Turkish frontier, and that a portion of the Turkish fleet is being prepared for active service.

It is understood that Berovitch Pasha had tendered his resignation and that the Sultan had refused to accept it. The town of Candia is now said to be tolerably quiet; but from four to five thousand insurgents are near there, awaiting reinforcements. When the reinforcements arrive, it is stated, the insurgents will attack Candia in force.

It is known here that the Turkish officials in Crete have reported to the Porte that it is absolutely impossible to pacify the island without a very large force of troops.

Conflicts of a more or less serious nature are reported from many parts of the island, and Heraklion is said to have been set on fire at a number of points. The foreign fleets have left Candia, Heraklion, which seems to confirm the report that it is now the centre of disturbance.

Other reports say that the situation at Retimo is almost as serious as at Heraklion.

The opinion expressed in official circles here is that nothing short of a landing of blue jackets and marines from the foreign navies will subdue the powers, and it is now believed that the powers can agree to take this step. The commanders of the foreign warships have obtained the promise of the Greek admiral that he will give forty hours' notice of any attack which he may determine to make upon Candia.

CONSTANTINOPLE, Feb. 12--The news received here from the island of Crete is growing more serious every day and it is understood that several of the embassies have received dispatches that Heraklion is on fire. In official circles here the only solution of the Cretan difficulty seems to be a European occupation of that island. It is understood that instructions have been sent to the commanders of the foreign warships to prevent by force if necessary any intervention upon the part of the Greek warships.

LONDON, Feb. 12--D. G. Melaxes, the Greek Charge d'Affaires, here, called on the foreign office yesterday and presented a note expressly stating that the Greek government had decided to prevent Turkish troops from debarking in Crete by all the means in its power.

VIENNA, Feb. 12--The semi-official Fremdenblatt to-day says: "Greece must be restrained from going any further. Austria has already acted and the other powers will not be backward. They will not assist Greece nor hinder Turkey in sending troops and responding with hostilities to the aggressive action of Greece."

TRIPOLI, Feb. 12--The Turkish officials having withdrawn the guard from the Jewish quarter here, a mob of Mussulmans invaded it, pillaged the synagogue and destroyed the scrolls of the law.

TREND OF TRADE.

Disruption of Steel Rail Pool The All Absorbing Theme of Business.

NEW YORK, Feb. 12--R. G. Dun & Company's weekly review of trade tomorrow will say: No other event of the week approaches in importance the disruption of the steel rail pool. In two days after it, a greater tonnage of rails was probably purchased than the entire production last year, reported as 800,000 tons and instead of \$25 in December and \$25 in January, \$17 is now the price at which works east and west are seeking orders. The Carnegie company even selling at \$17 Chicago delivery. These sales will employ many thousands hands, with an important decrease in the cost of track laying or renewals to railroads.

Even more important is the result that reconstruction of the billet pool will be impossible as long as the contest over rails continues and the manufacture of structural forms, bars, rods, wire, nails, tin plates and many other products has a chance to secure cheap material in the near future; also important is the struggle between the two great companies producing Mesabi iron ore, one allied with the Illinois Steel and the other with the Carnegie Company, which is expected to bring about lower prices for ore, and to push many mines to their utmost capacity. But in the war of rival interests, wages are already reduced by some large concerns.

Another event of influence is the purchase of 750,000 pieces of print cloth by M. C. Borden at 2.56 cents, which has already caused an advance to 2.69 cents, with a stronger tone for prints and other cotton goods. The moral influence of such a purchase, manifesting confidence in the future, is apt to be great. As the contract is shut down part time many mills producing print cloth are going into effect the productive capacity and wages of operators will be for a time reduced, but it is a demand of traders to replenish stock is started, the effect may be altogether beneficial. The woolen industry is now meeting an increased demand for the low and medium goods, and a dozen more mills have started against three

stopping for various reasons. Clay mixtures are reduced to seventy-five cents, with other prices maintained.

Except in steel rails, changes in iron products have been slight advances in gray iron, wire and cut nails. Competition reduces American tin plates 60 to 70 against 120 for foreign; tin and copper are steady, but lead stronger at 32 1/2-33. Speculation in products has hardly been more active than of late. Prices generally tend downward. What rose a cent to Tuesday, but has since declined 2 1/2 cents.

Western receipts are increasing, but for two weeks have been only \$3,391,395 bushels, against \$3,221,221 last year, while Atlantic exports, flour included, have been for the week about a quarter larger than last year, and for two weeks 3,885,096 bushels, against 3,038,125 last year.

About every week some new speculative guess by somebody impresses many traders more than the current records of actual movement. The cotton market has been depressed in like manner by Mr. Ellison's estimate that the American crop would prove 5,000,000 bales, but the quantity coming into sight has also surpassed previous guesses and an opinion is held that the most speculators estimated. The curtailment of consumption in the mills is not a guess, although some over-estimate it, since probably not more than a fifth of the spindles will be stopped a third of each week, for a quarter of the year. The price declined only an eighth for spin, but over a quarter for the May option.

Failures for the past week have been 267 in the United States, against \$31 last year, and 61 in Canada, against \$6 last year.

A CHICAGO VIEW

Of the Recent Cut in the Rail Pool--The Effect of It.

CHICAGO, Feb. 12--A special to the Post from Pittsburgh says: The reported visit to this city of President Gates, of the Illinois Steel Company, is regarded by the iron men as a matter of the very highest importance and as confirmatory of a report, which has been in circulation among the heavy capitalists, which gave them a majority of the stock and bonds of the committee control of this great consolidation and at a very low figure, owing to the hard times and shrinking of the men who put their money in the concern have unlimited capital and are well prepared to stand any kind of a "squeeze."

According to the Post, Rockefeller, Morgan and Carnegie were in alliance with half a dozen or more smaller concerns in various industrial centres and felt they were being handicapped by the partnership. All at once the great iron products of the world were to be placed in the hands of a few men, and the heavy concerns proceeded to mark prices down 25 and 35 per cent, not making enormous contracts with railroads and other consumers at figures that were simply paralyzing to the smaller concerns. Within a period of three days it has become evident that the iron men had "cut" and it is now plain to the world that concerns that are not very strong will, in the course of time, go to the wall or suffer themselves to be absorbed by the heavy weights. It is a freeze out game pure and simple and that is what the iron interests and the bankers of Pittsburgh believe to be under way now in the iron field.

The Metal Schedule.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Feb. 12--The Republican members of the ways and means committee made important progress on the tariff bill to-day. They decided upon the rates for pulp and printing paper and fixed several important items in the metal schedule. The duties on pulp were changed from ad valorem 15 per cent to specific duties somewhat below the McKinley rates. On printing paper suitable only for books and newspapers the Wilson rate which is 15 per cent ad valorem on both classes unlined and lined, was reduced to 10 per cent. The McKinley law on the unlined is 15 per cent and the 20 per cent. In the metal schedule the conference decided to continue the present rates on nickel and zinc. The McKinley rate on type metal was restored. They are one and a half cents a pound for the lead and contact with the metal and 15 per cent ad valorem on lead types. The present rates are three-fourths cent and 15 ad valorem. For the "basket clause," which covers all metal articles, not specially provided for, the McKinley rate of 45 per cent ad valorem was substituted for the present rate, 35 per cent.

Foe to the Combination.

CLEVELAND, O., Feb. 12--There is now being formed a combination which may prove a worthy foe of the Carnegie-Rockefeller deal. As soon as the latest combination was announced, the Minnesota Iron Company, anticipating some troubles, began looking about for some large consumer to join interests with. This consumer it has found in the Illinois Steel Company, which has been a member of the steel rail pool. The Minnesota company owns immense tracts of ore land in the Mesabi range, and the Illinois Steel Company is a worthy competitor of Carnegie. Cleveland iron ore